The College managements are required to function within the provisions of the Dentists Act and the regulations notified thereunder. The Ministry does not exercise any administrative control over the private dental colleges beyond the provisions.

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)

*60. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved till 31st March, 1998 under the Centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in pollution abatement work in 46 towns located along 18 inter-State rivers in 10 States;

(b) the amount of Centre's share for this scheme released till 31st March, 1998;

(c) whether the work on the scheme is progressing according to schedule finalised at the time of launching of the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons for slow progress and steps being taken to accelerate the work?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) A total of 152 schemes have been sanctioned as on 31st March, 1998 under the Centrally sponsored national River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement in 46 towns located along 18 inter-State rivers in 10 States. 17 schemes have been completed and the remaining are at various stages of implementation.

(b) An amount of Rs. 40.82 crore has been released as on 31st March, 1998 as the share of the Central Government to the States covered under the National River Conservation Plan.

(c) and (d) There have been some delays in the initial period in the preparation of the detailed project reports of various pollution abatement schemes due to lack of adequate expertise and financial resources available with the States involved in the Plan. However, the Plan is scheduled to be completed by March, 2005.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of Jute Reservation Order

269. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer plants are not strictly implementing the Jute Reservation Order making it compulsory on their part to use laminated jute bags for packaging of 50 per cent urea fertilizer; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what steps are proposed to be taken to make the fertilizer plants strictly implement the said order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The compliance of the statutory order under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987 in the Urea industry has shown a gradual improvement as a result of sustained efforts by the Government. The Jute Commissioner who is the implementing authority monitors the compliance of the statutory order issued by the Government in this regard.

Setting up of Fertilizer Project with Oman Firm

270. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have been made to play second fiddle to Sultanate of Oman in the US $ 1106 million fertilizer project, confidential documents and cleared controversial deal before Gujral Government's fall as appeared in the Pioneer dated March 29, 1998?

(b) If so, what are the facts in this regard and reasons therefore; and

(c) The present status of this deal and agreement made between G.O.I. and Oman firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The joint venture fertilizer project in Oman has been conceived on the basis of mutual